

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A joint boot comprising:

a boot body including a large-diameter attachment part ~~to be attached~~ adapted to attach to an outer housing ~~of an outer contour~~ having a plurality of recessed portions in the circumferential direction thereof, a small-diameter attachment part ~~to be attached~~ adapted to attach to a shaft, and a bellows part integrally linking ~~both~~ said small-diameter attachment part and said large-diameter attachment part; and

a bushing interposed between said outer housing and the large-diameter attachment part, having an inner peripheral surface adapted to be externally fitted and fixed to the outer housing and having an outer peripheral surface to which said large-diameter attachment part of said boot body is externally fitted,

wherein the bushing assuming, on its outer peripheral surface to which the large-diameter attachment part is externally fitted, said bushing has a circular form in cross-section on said outer peripheral surface thereof, [[and]]

wherein said bushing being provided, on its inner peripheral surface on which the outer housing is externally fitted and fixed, with has a plurality of lobe portions on said inner peripheral surface thereof in a circumferentially distributed manner, said plurality of lobe portions being adapted to mate mating with said recessed portions in a circumferentially distributed manner;

wherein the bushing ~~has is provided on the inner peripheral surface with~~ protrusions extending circumferentially on said inner peripheral surface adapted to mate ~~mating~~ with grooves extending circumferentially ~~formed~~ on an outer peripheral surface of the outer housing;

wherein said large-diameter attachment part of said boot body is externally fitted to and in contact with said bushing in an external fitting area, and

wherein the protrusions are disposed in a position ~~deviating from an outside said~~ external fitting area ~~by the large-diameter attachment part in an~~ [[the]] axial direction of the bushing.

2. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 1, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein the protrusions are disposed on an opposite side of said external fitting area, relative to said bellows part of said boot body in a position deviating on the opposite side to the bellows part from said external fitting area.

3. (Currently Amended) A joint boot as set forth in claim 2, wherein ~~the bushing is formed in its outer peripheral area with~~ an upset part capable of stopping an edge face of the large-diameter attachment part in the axial direction is formed in said outer peripheral surface of said bushing, and wherein the protrusions are disposed on the inner peripheral surface of the bushing at a same axial position as the upset part, in the axial direction of the bushing.

4. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 3, ~~which is characterized in that~~

wherein the bushing is provided, ~~over the whole circumference at the inner peripheral surface thereof~~, with a faying inner peripheral portion of a smaller diameter than the outer housing over the whole circumference of the inner peripheral surface of said bushing, so that the bushing ~~can be~~ is adapted to be externally fitted and fayed to the outer housing,

wherein ~~and concurrently~~, the bushing is provided, ~~over the whole circumference of the inner peripheral surface located at the one end of the bushing opposite to the bellows part~~, with an upset inner peripheral portion over the whole circumference of the inner peripheral surface located at an end of the bushing opposite to the bellows part, assuming a straight hole form of a larger diameter than the outer housing and guiding the outer housing when externally fitting the bushing to the outer housing; and

wherein the protrusions are disposed between the faying inner peripheral portion and the upset inner peripheral portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 1, ~~which is characterized in that~~

wherein the protrusions are disposed between said bellows part of said boot body and said external fitting area in the axial direction of the bushing ~~in a position deviating on the bellows part side from the external fitting area~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 5, ~~which is characterized in that~~

wherein the large-diameter attachment part is provided, ~~on the outer peripheral surface thereof,~~ with a circumferentially extending recessed portion on the outer peripheral surface of said large-diameter attachment part, ~~for fixation for receiving~~ to which a clamping member is received; and

wherein an inner peripheral area of the large-diameter attachment part located ~~on the bellows part side from said recessed portion for fixation~~ between said bellows part of said boot body and said circumferentially extending recessed portion surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the bushing at a clearance gap, and

wherein the protrusions are disposed ~~[[at]]~~ on the inner peripheral surface of the bushing within an axial range of the clearance gap.

7. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 1, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein the protrusions are provided only at ~~the are like~~ arc-shaped wall portions located between the circumferentially mutually adjacent lobe portions.

8. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 1, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein the bushing is formed from a softer material than the boot body.

9. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 1, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein the lobe portions of the bushing each comprise: ~~each~~

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an inner wall portion jutting radially inwardly in a curved form, an outer wall portion constituting part of the outer peripheral surface of the bushing,

a radially extending central strut wall connecting the inner wall portion and the outer wall portion in the middles ~~of them~~ thereof relative to the circumferential direction, and

lateral strut walls on both sides of the central strut wall,

whereby four relief holes are juxtaposed in the lobe portion in the circumferential direction.

10. (Currently Amended) The joint boot as set forth in claim 9, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein the lateral strut walls slant in a manner such that as ~~they~~ the lateral strut walls extend ~~outwards towards an outer peripheral portion of said bushing, they~~ the lateral strut wall approach the central strut wall.